

# MOUNT VERNON PARKS & RECREATION

## SAND VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE RULES



### I. General Rules

- a. Rules not covered in this rulebook shall be governed by [USAV rules](#).
- b. Players must be 18+ years of age to participate and all players assume & play at their own risk.
- c. Proper attire required. A shirt must be worn at all times.
- d. Each team will supply a volleyball for the match. Both teams must agree on the ball for play.

### II. Sand Volleyball League Rosters

- a. Teams can have up to 10 players on the roster. All rostered players are on the team and can play in any of the matches.
- b. Players/Teams must submit their roster by 10am the day of the first match:  
<https://forms.gle/Ug6WVMpQiptVBNxj6>
- c. Players can only participate for one team per league.
- d. Rosters cannot be changed after week 4 of the league season. At the roster deadline, players listed on the team roster are eligible to participate in the playoffs.
- e. Players must have photo identification available at ALL times. Failure to present photo ID upon request will result in a game forfeiture. Playing under an assumed name will result in game forfeiture and suspensions to the player and team captain.

### III. Schedules/Game Times

- a. All games must begin promptly at the scheduled time. If time permits, a 2-minute warm-up will be permitted.
- b. Matches will be scheduled every 60 minutes with a 55-minute time limit.
- c. The winner of the coin toss may elect to serve or receive the service or the side of the court. The other captain takes one of the other remaining alternatives.

### IV. Playing Rules

- a. **All leagues will play a Rally Point Scoring system.** The first two games are played to 25, win by 2, with a 30-point cap (win by 1). The third game is played to 15, win by 2, with a 20-point cap (win by 1). If at any time during the match (any 3 games) the 55-minute time limit expires, no further serves will be allowed (if tied there will be one more serve).

### V. Team League Play

- a. Match Referee
  - i. League games will be refereed by a player from a non-playing team, i.e., Team 1 & Team 2 are playing the 6:15pm match, a player from Team 3 must referee the match. The Recreation Department will schedule and list the referee for each match. Each team member is expected to perform referee duties to the best of their ability and with the utmost fairness and respect.
- b. Player Rotation
  - i. Three players are front row players, left front (4), center front (3) and right front (2).
  - ii. Three players are back row players, left back (5), center back (6) right back (server, 1).
  - iii. When the receiving team has gained the right to serve, its players must rotate one position clockwise.
- c. Co-Ed League lineups: Serving order and positions on the court at service shall be male and female alternated or vice-versa.
- d. The Official Game Clock
  - i. Official's clock is the official clock.
  - ii. Will only stop on time-outs and injuries.
  - iii. The official will notify each team when two minutes remain in the match.
  - iv. 55 minute time limit. If the game is tied, play one more serve to decide the winner.
- e. Timeouts
  - i. (1) timeout per game for no more than 30 seconds.

- ii. During postseason play, if at 25-25, an additional timeout (30 secs) will be awarded.
- f. For safety purposes, when play is occurring on the adjacent court, a player is not permitted to touch down beyond the dividing line (midpoint) between the volleyball courts.
  - i. If this occurs a fault will be called by the official.
  - ii. If the adjacent court is unoccupied, players are permitted to cross the dividing line.
  - iii. The adjacent court is still considered occupied during time outs and time between sets
- g. Scores will be reported by the match official (email recreation@mountvernonohio.org).
- h. MVPR will update the league standings.
- i. MVPR will notify teams when there are obvious weather fronts coming into the area and postpone matches. Questionable weather situations will be handled by the match (and/or the Recreation Director, as needed). Based on the calendar and availability, attempts will be made to reschedule postponed matches.

VI. **Forfeits & Defaults**

- a. Forfeits occur when a team does not show for their scheduled game and no advanced notice was provided to the office. Defaults are recorded when a captain submits forfeit form to the Sports office prior to 3:00pm the day of their scheduled game. This will allow the office to notify the opponent and prevent them from showing up to the courts. Defaults will still be recorded as a loss but will not hinder a team's playoff chances.
- b. A 5-minute grace period applies for the first game of the first match only.
  - i. If a team has 4 players the match will start as scheduled.
- c. If a team still does not have at least 4 players by the start of the second game (the start of the second game will be defined as the time 20 minutes after the scheduled start time), the second game, as well as the match, are forfeited.
- d. Teams that no-show forfeit multiple weeks during a season may be removed from the league.

VII. **Post-Season Play**

- a. The postseason will consist of a playoff between the top four teams.
- b. Matches are played the best 2 out of 3 in postseason play with no time limit (25-25-15 format, with caps).

VIII. **Mixed Recreational - Misc. Rules**

- a. Men cannot spike and must serve underhand. It is not considered a spike as long as there is an initial upward movement of the ball. No side arm serves permitted.
- b. Female must participate if the ball is not returned on the first volley (more than 1 touch).
- c. A gender loop rotation is permitted in these leagues that can be done in the serving position.
- d. Use of a **Libero** player is permitted.
  - i. He/She is restricted to performing as a back row player and has no right at all to complete an attack hit when the ball is above the height of the top of the net.
  - ii. The **Libero** may serve when replacing in position #1.
  - iii. The **Libero** cannot block or attempt to block.
  - iv. The **Libero** must wear a different color shirt from the other members of the team.

IX. **Legal Player Combinations - The following are the only permitted combinations:**

- a. 6 player combinations: 3 women/3 men or 4 women/2 men
- b. 5 player combinations:
  - i. 3 women/ 2 men OR 2 women/ 3 men
- c. 4 player combinations: 2 women/2 men
  - i. Must maintain a 2 person front and 2 person back row and gender rotation is required.

X. **Captain's Responsibilities**

- a. Team captains are responsible for knowing all rules and regulations that pertain to their leagues and informing their players of these rules.
- b. Team captains are responsible for accurate contact information and making sure it is on file at the Recreation Department.
- c. The team captain is the only one authorized to speak to the referees when the ball is out of play.

- d. The team captain is the only one authorized to ask for an explanation on the application or interpretation of the rules, and also to submit the requests or questions of his/her teammates.

XI. **Sportsmanlike Conduct**

- a. Participants must accept the referee's decisions regarding conduct without disputing them. In case of doubt, clarification may be requested only through the game captain.
- b. Participants must refrain from actions or attitudes aimed at influencing the decisions of the referees or covering up faults committed by their team.
- c. Participants/players who are on the court are the only ones permitted to call in and out of bounds or blocks. No one on the sidelines or bench are permitted to assist in these calls.
- d. Participants must behave respectfully and courteously in the spirit of FAIR PLAY, not only toward the referees, but also toward other officials, the opponents, teammates, City Staff, and spectators.

XII. **Tiebreaker Procedure**

- a. **Forfeit:** A forfeit by a team will eliminate that team from the tie breaker
- b. **Head to Head record (group):** This tiebreaker considers all head-to-head games between all teams that are tied, calculates a winning percentage for each team, and ranks them according to that percentage.
- c. **HTH Point Differential:** Only between teams that are tied:
  - i. Most useful when two teams are tied, played each other twice, and are 1-1. Team A beats Team B by 4 points. Team B beats Team A by 2 points. Team A wins the tiebreaker with +2 point differential while Team B has a -2 point differential.
- d. **Total Point Differential**
- e. **Coin Flip:** If teams are still tied a coin flip will be used to determine the winning team.

XIII. **Misconduct**

- a. **Intoxicants/Illegal Substances:** The Mount Vernon City Ordinance prohibits alcohol in city parks. There is to be no alcohol or illegal substances used during any league or tournament contest or on any undesignated recreational area before, during, or after any games. Any individual found in violation of this rule will be ejected from the game and must leave the premises. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of the game and may result in an individual or team suspension from future league participation
- b. **Zero Tolerance Policy:** Unsportsmanlike or abusive behavior by spectators, players or teams will not be tolerated. Individual and team penalties will be given by administrators of the program and will be based on the severity of the actions (see below). The team captain is responsible for the actions of all of his/her players and spectators. Their actions will directly affect the eligibility status of the team. Penalties for individuals and teams are not progressive. They include probation, suspension or total elimination from participation
  - i. Any violation of the Zero Tolerance Policy will warrant a minimum one (1) week suspension from all MVPR leagues or tournaments, including participation as a spectator, for any sporting events held at Mount Vernon Parks and Recreation facilities. This includes, but is not limited to, non-MVPR organization events such as leagues or tournaments. The player will then be placed on probation for one (1) calendar year. The Recreation Department will make a determination if a longer penalty is warranted as to the severity of the situation or the status of participation in multiple sports or leagues.
  - ii. The jurisdiction of game officials does not end until they have vacated the game site and surrounding areas. An individual does not have the right to abuse a game official because the official contest has concluded. Ejections or other game penalties may still be given at or beyond the conclusion of the contest and shall be considered in all aspects of a participant's conduct.
  - iii. The suspension period does not include postponed games.
  - iv. Anyone ejected for unsportsmanlike behavior must leave the facility immediately. Failure to do so could result in the game being forfeited.

- v. After an incident is reported, the Recreation Department will review the situation, collect all necessary information and make a decision on any disciplinary action. It is the right of any suspended person to appeal the decision.
- c. **Ejection Policy and Disciplinary Action:** A participant or spectator in a City of Mount Vernon Parks and Recreation program that violates the Zero Tolerance Policy and is ejected or suspended from any facility, program, contest, or activity for the following acts of unsportsmanlike or misconduct, shall be subjected to the following disciplinary procedures:
  - i. Hitting, striking, pushing or any contact of a City of Mount Vernon Parks and Recreation employee, official/umpire, participant or spectator. Disciplinary Action: Suspension from MVPR facilities and/or programs for a minimum of one year.
  - ii. Threatening physical harm or the use of any intimidation towards a MVPR employee, official/umpire, participant, or spectator. Disciplinary Action: Suspension from MVPR facilities and/or programs for a minimum of one month.
  - iii. Verbally abusing a MVPR employee, official/umpire, participant, or spectator. Disciplinary Action: Suspension from MVPR programs and/or facilities for a minimum of one week.
  - iv. Acting in a way which would cause equipment or facility damage, and/or injury to a person. Disciplinary Action: Suspension from MVPR programs and/or facilities for a minimum of one month.
  - v. Failing to cooperate and respond honestly to inquiries or requests for assistance in identifying individuals who may be involved in incidents. Disciplinary Action: Suspension from MVPR programs and/or facilities for the individual and/or their team, club, or organization for a minimum of one month.
  - vi. Participating under an assumed name, providing false information, or illegally participating in a division of play. Disciplinary Action: Suspension MVPR programs and/or facilities for a minimum of one week.
  - vii. Personal conduct situations that are not covered by the provisions stated in the above items #1-6 will be dealt with in an appropriate manner by the Recreation Director at his/her discretion.
- d. In the event a penalty is applied at the end of a current season, regardless of sport, the penalty may be carried over to any year, season, sport or tournament.
- e. Any portion of a game, or games, missed due to an ejection shall not count toward a player suspension. If a player is ejected during any game, the player is no longer eligible to participate in any game that day/night (such as, but not limited to: double headers, league playoffs). A player ejection that occurs during a MVPR tournament shall be at the discretion of the tournament director.

#### XIV. **Protests and Appeals**

- a. **Protests can be made on eligibility issues only. Player eligibility:** The protest must be declared to the game official prior to final serve of the game. Players are required to have a photo ID at all times. Upon a player eligibility protest, failure to provide an ID will result in a forfeit. **The match referee will notify the Recreation Department the following business day with the protest information. The Recreation Director will make a determination of the protest.**
- b. **Appeals:** Appeals of a decision made by the Recreation Department concerning a protest or a suspension must be made in writing and on file with the office no later than 5 business days from notification.
  - i. The appeal should describe specific reasons why the offending party disagrees with the decision made by the Recreation Department.
  - ii. The Recreation Director will make the final decision on whether the appeal is approved or denied.

#### XV. Refund/Registration Policy

- a. Payment must be submitted immediately and at the time of registration to be complete. Unpaid registrations will be discarded.
- b. All refund requests are subject to a \$10 processing fee. No refunds will be issued after June 20.